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THE  
**GRANITE BELT  
NATURALIST**



Monthly Newsletter of the  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club



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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

P.O. Box 154,  
STANTHORPE, Q., 4380.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1985 - 1986

PRESIDENT	JEAN HARSLETT B.E.M. (833 185)
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BUSHWALKING OFFICER	RAY MARSDEN
COMMITTEE	FRANK WILKINSON DON LIGHTFOOT COLIN HOCKINGS LYLE THOMPSON ESME LACEY JOAN FERRIS
HON. AUDITOR	

MEETINGS 4th WEDNESDAY of each month at the C.W.A. ROOMS at 8 p.m.

OUTINGS The SUNDAY PRECEDING the 4th Wednesday of the Month.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Singls - \$6.00

Family - \$ 10.00

AIMS OF THE CLUB

1. To study all branches of natural history.
2. Preservation of the Flora and Fauna of Queensland.
3. Encouragement of a spirit of protection towards native birds,  
animals and plants.
4. To assist where possible in scientific research.
5. To publish a monthly newspaper.

No. 168

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September, 1985

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD IN C.W.A. ROOMS, WED. AUGUST 28, 1985

Present 18 Apologies 2.

Meeting opened by President Jean welcoming all present and in particular Chris Teague and hoped that she would be a prospective member. Jean also thanked all who took her place in the chair during her overseas trip.

Minutes - moved by Rob McCoaker and seconded by Esme Lacey that minutes be taken as read in the August Magazine. Carried.

Business arising from Minutes - the club accepted with pleasure having Bruce Gibson join the News Letter Sub Committee and also announced that the wild flower  $\frac{1}{2}$  day outing on Sept. 8th will meet at 1 p.m. at Girraween.

Correspondence Inward consisted of 1. letter from World Wide Travel Bureau re Heron Island Bird Week 7th - 14th December.

2. Sept/85 Journal from National Parks Association.

3. Q'ld Naturalist Journal Vol 25

4. Darling Downs Naturalist

5. Newsletters from Chinchilla Field Nats June & July; Richmond Valley Field Nats and Conservation & Bush Rescue

Outward Correspondence 1. Letter of thanks to Joan Ferris our Auditor.

2. Letter to Brett Porter, Ranger at Girraween, inviting him to be Guest Speaker on April 23rd, 1986 and lead outing in Girraween on May 25th, 1986.

3. Letter to Dept. Education re our eligibility to order films for club

4. Letter to 4QS advertising our outing and meeting for August.

Moved by Frank Wilkinson and seconded by Bob Lacey that the Inward be received and the outward endorsed. Carried.

Financial Report

Receipts

Subscriptions 174.00

Room Rent 9.45 183.45

Balance as at 24.7.85 14.58

Total Credit 198.03

Total Expenditures 26.40

Balance as at 28.8.85 \$171.63 Credit.

Expenditures

Magazine Postage 13.00

" Duplication 7.00

Room Rent 6.00

Federal Tax .40 26.40

Moved by Joan Stevenson and seconded by May Prentice that the financial report be received and the following accounts passed for payment -

Mag. Postage August 13.00; Mag. Duplication August 7.00; Aug. Room Rent 6.00  
CARRIED.

Outing Report

In the absence of Don Lightfoot Jean reported on the Pikedale Outing. There were 24 present on a day of perfect weather. The wild life was very interesting. Lyle Thompson who had worked on the station for 40 years spoke on his and Don's experiences and the historical & geological aspects particularly the old flood gates which were wellworth seeing.

Next Outing Sept. 8th  $\frac{1}{2}$  day wild flower outing to the Junction meeting at Girraween at 1 p.m. Sept. 22nd - Official outing to Rivertree area and the Graphite Mines to be led by Dore McCosker. Cars meeting at Weeroona Park

Minutes continued -

to leave at 9 a.m. sharp.

NEXT MEETING Sept. 25th - Don Lightfoot to be Guest Speaker with a "Surprise Program".

SPECIMENS - Brian McDonagh brought in 6 varieties of Wattle.

1. Black Wattle - Neriifolia, 2. Pruinosa - very dainty found only in the Granite Belt & just over the border. 3. River Wattle Florabunda 4. Swamp Wattle - Venulosa 5. Latisepala another variety found only in the Granite Belt and just over the border.

6. Prickly Moses Ulicifolia is the common one but the specimen shown was Gunnii and is quite rare and only found in the Granite Belt and just over the border.

also - a very interesting rock formation found near Winton - round like a bowling ball the half one showed quite interesting and clearly defined rings.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Moved by Jean Harslett and seconded by Joan Stevenson that we give the Show Society \$3.00 - \$2.00 1st prize and \$1.00 2nd Prize for Native Blooms in the Horticultural Section. Carried.

Esme Lacy gave all backs and covers from unused extra magazines which Bob had removed the staples. These can be used for future editions. Jean thanked Bob for the time he spent doing this to save the club expenses.

Brian McDonagh told us about 5 feathertail marsupial mice found in a hollow log. His daughter Judith is trying to keep the remaining ones alive as the N.S.W. Dept. want to see them.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

A very educational and interesting program on "The Antactica" by Bob and Esme Lacey was greatly enjoyed by all present and we all joined Tom Archer in a vote of thanks to them both.

Dorothy Archer,  
Hon. Secretary.

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REPORT ON OUTING TO PIKEDALE STATION

by DON LIGHTFOOT

The outing to Pikedale on August 25th 1985 was attended by twenty-four members, including five children. Six cars left Weeroona Park at 9.40am and travelled direct to Pikedale mail box. Here we were joined by President Jean, fresh from her overseas trip. While I was at the homestead picking up the key, quite some interest was shown in the rocky ridge south of the Texas road.

We then travelled through the Pikedale paddocks, known as "limes tone, Top Wash Pool and Bottom Gap". In Bottom Gap we left the cars to take a short walk to a vantage point to view the country side for miles. Seen from this point were Inverary Woolshed in the north west by turning the head, one could see the south west side of Pikedale and follow the course of Pikes Creek. Back to the cars and smoko was mooted, but instead we moved on down through some box country and stopped at an old rabbitier's camp. This camp was in use when the freezing works were located in Stanthorpe. At that time there were six or seven pick-up trucks, two of which would be loaded in and around Pikedale. The remainder would pick up in Inglewood and Texas and Glenlyon and one would do a round trip, nearly to Tenterfield.

Grade 10.5 12 1961 01

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the swampy area just over the border. 3. River valley - another variety found only

1. Political Parties, Unions, etc. are the common one, but the question is whether they are the same or not.

.referred and have sent him home

1. Background - not a new concept, but a new approach to the study of the past. It is a new way of looking at the past, not a new way of looking at the present. It is a new way of looking at the past, not a new way of looking at the present.

current and 1910-1914 5. Wall  
again located also the base

[illegible]

0-9

Q. Now, I have asked you to read the letter and you have said that you have reviewed the letter. What has been reviewed in the letter?

... ..

Follow Joe. His daughter Judith is trying to keep the remaining ones. Stefan McConough told us about 5 freshwater marmosets were found in a

Always an the H.S.W. Dept. want to see them.

1-10-68

[illegible]

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...of ... ..

also advised that the above information was provided to the FBI by the FBI on 10/10/78.

and a small, five-story building with four floors above ground and one below ground. The building is made of concrete and steel. It is located on the corner of 1st and 2nd streets, between 3rd and 4th streets. It is the only building of its kind in the area. It is the only building of its kind in the area.

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and was then moved to the other end of the road. The house was built by the same man who built the first one, and it was also built by the same man.

1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the situation and the goals that need to be achieved. It is important to gather all relevant information and to define the problem clearly.

...and ... ..

was sent off right in front of me, and I saw it go down.

Advised of plan to visit area N. of River and has received info.



OUTING REPORT continued

The freezing works have been closed for many years.

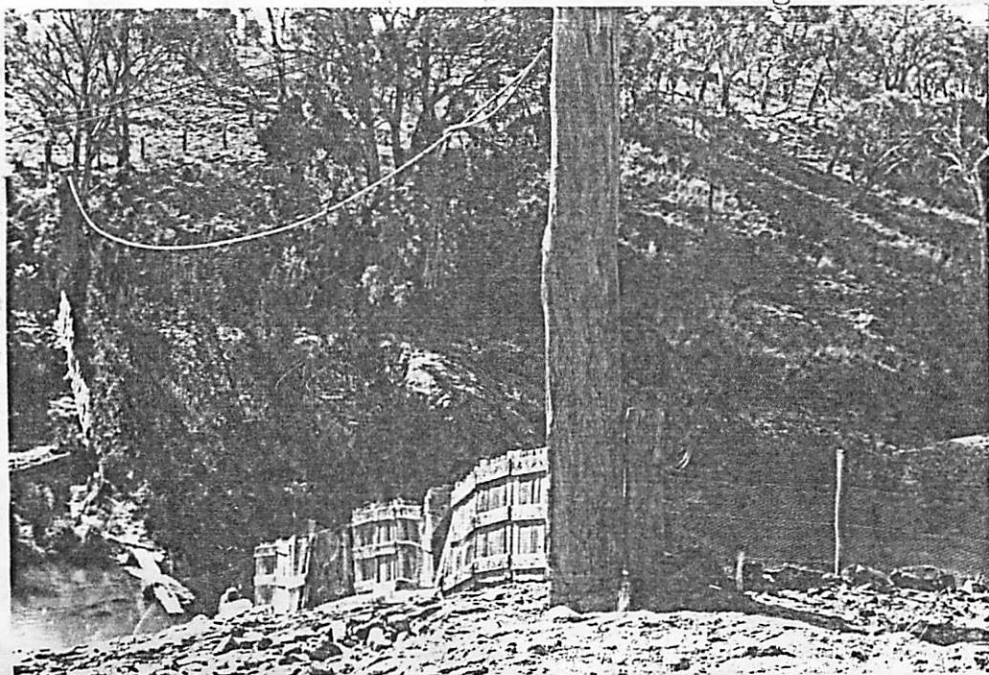
We walked along the creek (still no smoko) and saw some birdlife in this area. We moved on to a nice spot on the creek and this served as a smoko and later, as lunch spot. Just across the creek there is the cottage known as "Scrub Cottage" in common terms it was an out station cottage and was used as a station hand's quarters. It is many years since it has been occupied.

The time was now 12.45pm and the party moved up the eastern side of the creek. Quite a lot of interest was shown in the rock patterns and colours. The children showed interest in the "rag and bone" trade, they had gathered a sheep's skull, wallaby bones and a rabbit skull. A man's navy blue singlet was seen in an oak tree and we wondered about the story behind that. There were roos and wallabies aplenty and a turtle or two in the creek. We came out on to the flat known as Chinaman's Flat and then to Shepherd's Holding Flat. Here we saw evidence of the shepherd's hut and habitation of a long gone era.

Finally we reached the boundary of Pikedale and Alum Rock, where stands a fine piece of flood gate work. This is very old and serves as a tribute to the skill of the workmen. It has 20 foot posts on each side of the creek and a span of about 80 yards, a hand made wire  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch cable and drop ties of wire and wooden handmade gates hung from the cable. The purpose of which is to hinge and lift to let the water and debris through in floodtime.

We crossed Pike's Creek for the return trip and made our way back along the western bank, when we got back to Scrub Cottage we had a good look around it. We then crossed the creek to the cars, had a cuppa and headed for home. It was a perfect day for the outing being cloudless and warm.

Don Lightfoot.



PIKE'S Creek Flood Gates



We were all saddened to hear of the death of Dorothy Gordon. Sympathy is extended to our President Jean and her family on the untimely loss of Jean's sister. Dorothy was known to many of us, having attended meetings and outings with the club. We knew her as a generous, gracious lady who gave freely of her time and artistic abilities. Dorothy will be mourned by her local community of Glenmorgan and that of the Granite Belt, as she grew up in Glen Aplin. Dorothy was the younger daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Gemmell.

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The special half day wild flower outing to Girraween lived up to expectations and more than thirty different wildflowers were seen, including eleven acacias. It was a perfect spring afternoon and in excess of forty members and friends joined together for the outing. Many thanks Robin for a super outing.

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Mr. Fred Gibson of Sydney, was a great lover of the Australian bush and wrote this poem in January 1984 after receiving news that he had terminal illness. He passed away in January 1985 and I felt that this poem shows his affinity with nature and leaves a message for all of us

#### A GIFT

I love to wander down this quiet and shady lane,  
Where peace is so predominant, there is no fear or pain,  
The birds all sing merrily in the trees so tall - and strong,  
Whilst up along the mountainside the beautiful lyre bird sings  
his song,  
To hear the sound of trickling water on the rocks below  
And see a black scrub wallaby on the go  
Wattle trees are blooming- its golden flowers to see  
Waratahs and banksias - they all look good to me.  
For this is one of God's many gifts for us to cherish,  
So do all you can to preserve - and never let them perish.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our President has given a little more information on the flood gates on the boundary of Pikedale and Alum Rock. It was probably built around 1917 by man power with the aid of a horse- no great mechanical implements - the upright poles are of solid iron bark and are set into rock on either side of the Pike' Creek. This is a fine tribute to their workmanship as the gates are still in perfect condition today.

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NEXT MEETING September 25th at Q.C.W.A. Rooms at 8pm with Don Lighfoot's "Surprise Program."

NEXT OUTING September 22nd. To Rivertree area and graphite mines Leaving Weeroona Park at 9am. Leader Dore McCosker would like to hear from anyone who can arrange for 4WD vehicles. Lunch at cars, a long fairly hard walk if 4WD's are not available.